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she sent a memorial to Mr. Bourgeois, the chairman of the French deputation, supported by more than half a million women.

### Brevities.

. . . The Grand Duke of Luxemburg has finally ratified the Hague Convention for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes, and has appointed as Luxemburg's representative in the Permanent Court of Arbitration Mr. Henri Vannerus, president of the State Council and of the Superior Court of Luxemburg.

. . . President Roosevelt, in the following passage in his message, expresses his desire that Congress may extend the invitation to the Interparliamentary Union to meet at St. Louis this year:

"Last year the Interparliamentary Union for International Arbitration met at Vienna, six hundred members of the different legislatures of civilized countries attending. It was provided that the next meeting should be in 1904 at St. Louis subject to our Congress extending an invitation. Like the Hague Tribunal, this Interparliamentary Union is one of the forces tending towards peace among the nations of the earth, and it is entitled to our support. I trust the invitation can be extended."

. . . The *North American Review* for December contains a most able and enlightening article by P. T. McGrath on Hudson Bay, under the title, "A New Anglo-American Dispute: Is Hudson Bay a Closed Sea?" All persons wishing to keep themselves informed about United States-Canadian relations ought to read this article.

. . . President Roosevelt says that the settlement of the Alaska boundary dispute by the mixed commission of six "furnishes a signal proof of the fairness and good will with which two friendly nations can approach and determine issues involving national sovereignty, and by their nature incapable of submission to a third power for adjudication." But, Mr. President, just such boundary disputes involving national sovereignty have again and again been submitted to third powers. Why are they incapable of submission to a great impartial tribunal like the Hague Court?

. . . To those best informed about the growing tendencies towards liberty and constitutional government in Russia, the proposal to submit the new scheme for peasant reforms, ordered in the Czar's recent manifesto, to the consideration of an elective body to be composed of provincial committees chosen in each province by the Zemstvos, will cause no surprise. This is an entirely new departure for the Russian government. There is a parliamentary smack about it which is said to delight the liberal-minded Russians. It will be difficult long to prevent a violent revolution in Russia unless a peaceful one is accomplished. The soldiers in a number of instances during the recent outbreaks have refused to fire on the peasants.

. . . The government of San Domingo has been induced by United States Minister Powell to agree to appoint arbitrators in the case of the San Domingo Improvement Company.

. . . Congressman Gibson of Tennessee introduced into the House of Representatives on the 11th of December a resolution directing the President to open negotiations with the maritime nations for the purpose of formulating some international agreement whereby the naval armaments of the powers shall be materially reduced.

. . . In compliance with an urgent request from the Cuban authorities, the United States government, on the 11th of December, ordered the removal of the four companies of artillery, which have been kept in the island since its independence was established. For over a year the Cuban government had been objecting strongly to their retention at Havana and Santiago. Because of strong objections also from President Palma, the large display of naval forces, which the United States War Department had intended to make in connection with the opening of the naval station at Guantanamo on the same date, was omitted. It ought, in fairness, never to have been planned.

. . . Edwin D. Mead was one of the speakers at the great memorial meeting held recently in the Auditorium, Chicago, in honor of the late Henry D. Lloyd. While he was in Chicago he gave an address before the Chicago Peace Society and its friends, in which he gave an account of the recent Peace Congress at Rouen, and of the remarkable growth of the peace spirit in Europe.

. . . Hon. William I. Buchanan of Buffalo, ex-Minister to the Argentine Republic and General Counselor of the St. Louis Exposition, has been sent by President Roosevelt on a special mission to Panama. He will be gone till the 1st of February. Just what the nature of the mission is has not been made public. The press was "previous" in its statement that Mr. Buchanan was to be our first regular Minister to "the Republic of Panama." When he is given a Ministry abroad, it ought to be one of the chief Ambassadorships, for he is one of our ablest and most worthy diplomats.

. . . Dr. Thomas Barclay, ex-president of the British Chamber of Commerce in Paris, was the guest of the Massachusetts State Board of Trade at the Vendome Hotel, Boston, on the 15th of December, and spoke briefly on the subject of international arbitration. The Massachusetts Board of Trade will send a memorial to the United States Senate in favor of an Anglo-American arbitration treaty.

. . . The warships of Russia and Japan in the Far East have been painted black, to be ready in the event of war. That is the proper color. If the Russians and Japanese were disposed to do the appropriate thing still farther, they would follow the advice of William E. Channing and dress all their soldiers in black, paint their faces black, put black trappings on their horses, hoist black flags, and have the entire war equipments thus made emblematic of the sorrowful business of human slaughter. War is a very black art.

. . . Herbert Spencer, the famous writer on sociological and philosophical subjects, died at his home in Brighton, England, on December 8th. Spencer held strongly, on purely evolutionary grounds, that war is now entirely out of date, and ought to disappear from human society.

. . . Benjamin F. Trueblood, Secretary of the American Peace Society, addressed the Patria Club of New York City on the evening of December 11th on the subject of international arbitration. A committee of five members of the Club was appointed to promote the negotiation and ratification of a treaty of arbitration with Great Britain.

. . . It is reported from Washington that considerable opposition to great appropriations for naval construction has developed among influential members of both the Senate and the House.

. . . The two big battleships, "Libertad" and "Constitucion," put on the market last year by Chili, because of her convention with the Argentine Republic, have at last been sold. There have been rumors that they were going to Japan or to Russia, but it seems that at last England has bought them, and paid nine millions of dollars for them. Poor England! What an endless burden of the seas she is heaping upon herself! She will learn better some day, and then have an immense pile of old junk on her hands.

. . . According to the annual report of the Secretary of War just submitted to the President, the army expenditures for the year which ends next June will have been \$121,917,345.21. The estimates for the year ending June 30, 1905, are \$125,929,393.46.

. . . Mr. Urbain Gohier, the author of "L'Armée contre la Nation," whose severe criticisms of the conduct of military officials has from time to time aroused much excitement in France, has, after trial, been again acquitted. The cause of his last arrest was his written assertion, "The military calling is a school of cowardice," in proof of which he had given specific illustrations. His acquittal seems to be proof that the French are growing tired of the tyranny as well as of the brutalities of the army.

. . . The Executive Committee of the National Arbitration Conference held at Washington in April, 1896, through which arrangements have been made for holding another great national conference at the capital the 12th of this month, to promote an Anglo-American arbitration treaty, consists of the following persons: Hon. John W. Foster, of Washington; George L. Rives, of New York; Prof. John B. Moore, of Columbia University; John Crosby Brown, of New York; Carl Schurz, L. T. Chamberlain, of New York; James B. Angell, President of the University of Michigan, and Thomas Nelson Page.

. . . Sunday, December 20, was the centennial of the formal transfer of the Louisiana territory from France to the United States. The anniversary was celebrated in Louisiana with much pomp and enthusiasm.

. . . The thirty-seventh anniversary of the Pennsylvania Peace Society was held at Philadelphia on the 8th of December. A series of seven resolutions was voted, among which was one protesting against great naval increase in this country, and another favoring a regular international congress to meet at stated periods, to consider all questions of general international interest.

. . . Dr. E. B. Andrews, Chancellor of the University of Nebraska, gave the address at the Delta Upsilon Convention in New York recently. Among other things he said: "I do not regard imperialism in itself as savage; but the imperialism which views inferior races as our legitimate prey certainly is so."

. . . Lieutenant Bilse has been sentenced to six months imprisonment and dismissal from the German army for writing a novel, "In a little Garrison Town," in which the vices of German offices were exposed. The book has been suppressed by order of the government, and many officers are said to be ready to challenge Bilse to duels as soon as he is out of prison.

. . . The Nobel Peace Prize Committee of the Norwegian parliament announces that the next award of the prize will be on the 10th of December this year (1904). All proposals of candidates must be made to the Committee by the first of February. Persons who may propose candidates are: (a) Members of the Nobel Committee of the Norwegian parliament; (b) Members of Parliament and Members of Government of the different states; (c) Members of the Interparliamentary Council; (d) Members of the Commission of the International Peace Bureau; (e) Members of the Institute of International Law; (f) University professors of Political Science and of Law, of History, and of Philosophy; and (g) persons who have received the Nobel Peace Prize.

. . . In his annual report, made public on the 4th of December, the Secretary of the Navy strongly advises the creation of a general naval staff like that recently created for the army; recommends the establishment of a naval base in the Philippines; that the maritime powers adopt some system of doing away with derelicts in the ocean; that commandants at remote naval stations be authorized to convene general courts-martial; that some simple system of civil government be provided for Tutuila and Guam; and *the continued upbuilding of the navy by the annual authorization of new vessels.* The effective force of the navy was increased during the fiscal year by 25 vessels; that is, 1 battleship, 4 harbor defense monitors, 1 torpedo boat, 12 torpedo-boat destroyers, and 7 submarine boats.

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### Violation of International Treaties and International Law: The Case of Panama.

Treaties are the highest form of positive obligation which nations can take upon themselves toward other nations. Only when these treaties run clearly contrary to the common law of equity and justice, which is universally recognized among civilized peoples as putting the nations under the highest moral obligations, do they cease to be of binding force. When they run with this common law, as they are usually supposed to do, they are of the most sacred character. No greater dishonor, therefore, can come upon a government than that incurred by the deliberate violation of its treaty obligations.

One of the most serious aspects of the recent action of our government in the matter of the Panama revolt was